THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. A nut transport element for use in a feed chain of a high speed nutcracking apparatus, comprising

a generally block-like body which includes opposite sides, opposite ends, and top and bottom faces, said top face including a generally semi-cylindrical receptacle extending laterally across the upper face and so as to communicate with both of the opposite sides, with the size of the receptacle being predetermined so as to supportingly receive a single nut to be cracked which is of a given size and is oriented with its end to end direction extending axially along the receptacle, and wherein said block-like body is formed of a high impact plastic material.

2. The nut transport element of Claim 1 wherein the high impact plastic material includes a colorant which by design is representative of a particular size of the receptacle.

3. The nut transport element of Claim 2 wherein the high impact plastic material consists essentially of urethane.

4. The nut transport element of Claim 1 wherein said block-like body further comprises a longitudinal slot communicating with the full length of one of the sides as well as with the receptacle, and with the slot extending laterally a substantial portion of the distance across the element.

5. A lightweight feed chain for successively delivering nuts in a predetermined orientation to a cracking unit of a nutcracking apparatus, comprising

an endless conveyor which comprises a plurality of individual nut transport elements mounted in succession, with each of said nut transport elements comprising a generally block-like body which includes opposite sides, opposite ends, and top and bottom faces, said top face including a generally semi-cylindrical receptacle extending laterally across the upper face and so as to communicate with both of the opposite sides, with the size of the receptacle being predetermined so as to supportingly receive a single nut to be cracked which is of a given size and is oriented with its end to end direction extending axially along the receptacle, and wherein said block-like body is formed of a high impact plastic material.

6. The feed chain of Claim 5 wherein the high impact plastic material includes a colorant which by design is representative of a particular size of the receptacle.

7. A plurality of lightweight feed chains for selective use in a nutcracking apparatus for successively delivering the nuts to a cracking unit of a nutcracking apparatus, with each feed chain comprising

an endless conveyor which comprises a plurality of individual nut transport elements mounted in succession, with each of said nut transport elements comprising a generally block-like body which includes opposite sides, opposite ends, and top and bottom faces, said top face including a generally semi-cylindrical receptacle extending laterally across the upper face and so as to communicate with both of the opposite sides, with the

size of the receptacle being predetermined so as to supportingly receive a single nut to be cracked which is of a given size and is oriented with its end to end direction extending axially along the receptacle, and

wherein the receptacles of the nut transport elements of each feed chain are of uniform size which is different from the size of the receptacles of the other feed chains, and wherein the nut transport elements of each feed chain are formed of a high impact plastic material which is color coded with a colorant which uniquely identifies the size of the receptacles of the associated feed chain.